

**HOPE VALLEY/WYOMING FIRE DISTRICT  
996 MAIN STREET  
HOPE VALLEY, RI 02832**

**BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING  
MAY 29, 2014  
7:00 P.M.**

**Those present:** Board Members: Chairman, David Holt, Vice-Chairman, Pasquale DeBernardo, Ronald Richard, Georgia Ure; Elwood Johnson; Chief, Fred Stanley; Tax Collector, Susan Bok; District Clerk, Julie Kelley

**Those not present:** Auditor, Pete Stefanski; Treasurer, Deborah Nicotra

This meeting was called to work on the proposed budget for fiscal year July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015.

The meeting commenced and was called to order by Chairman, David Holt at 7:01 p.m. with a salute to the flag and a moment of silence.

The purpose of this meeting is to review the budget with the proposed changes as discussed at the last meeting on May 8, 2014. The following changes were discussed:

It was discussed that under Income – Verizon should be budgeted at \$7,500. Also under Income, Depot Square Park will be whatever is left over when transferred over in June. The income amount for Depot Square Park will be set at the Budget Hearing. The money will come from the Special Account to the Income account. This money will offset the expense account. The revenue line item will be a one-time entry. The journal line item Acct. # 6230 Parks and Grounds would be a new line item. The Treasurer will decide upon whether or not she recommends this being done this way.

The need for a new auditor based on the recently passed amendments by the General Assembly was discussed. It was decided that they did not need to review a budgetary number until the following fiscal year.

Chief Stanley brought to the attention of the board that the Accident and Sickness policy is coming up for renewal in May 2015. The district would be looking at increases since we wanted to increase the Medical benefits from \$200,000 to \$400,000 and weekly benefits from \$1,000 to \$1,500. There will also be an increase due to Bradford and Exeter not being part of the policy.

The budget will be adopted at the Monthly Board Meeting at the June 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.

At the last meeting, salaries were increased by 2% across the board with the exception of the District Clerk. The board discussed the increased responsibilities with the recently passed amendments. Mr. Johnson proposed an increase in salaries at a flat rate of \$1,000 for the Tax Collector, Treasurer, and Maintenance/Driver. Mr. DeBernardo commented that he disagrees not because of their performances but bases his negativity on the fact that the board has a responsibility to all of the taxpayers in the district to keep the tax rates at a reasonable rate. In addition, he feels that most people within this economy will not receive a rate increase greater than 2%. Mr. Johnson commented that he agrees but also feels that we have a responsibility to our employees to see that they earn an equitable living and are paid a reasonable amount for the work that they do.

Mr. Johnson motioned to increase the Tax Collector, Treasurer, and Maintenance/Driver a flat rate of \$1,000 each. Discussion: The rate of the District Clerk was increased by \$1,000 at the last meeting. Mr. Richard seconded the motion. With no further discussion, three (3) in favor and one (1) opposed.

Mr. Holt-yes; Mr. DeBernardo-opposed; Mr. Richard-yes; Ms. Ure-yes; Mr. Johnson-yes

**ADJOURN**

A motion was made to adjourn at 7:32 p.m. by Mr. Richard and seconded by Ms. Ure. With no further discussion, all in favor, all aye, motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Mr. Holt-yes; Mr. DeBernardo-yes; Mr. Richard-yes; Ms. Ure-yes; Mr. Johnson-yes

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Kelley  
District Clerk